

# BILLINGE

## Urban District Council.

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### Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1905.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my report on the health and sanitary condition of the Urban District of Billinge for the year 1905.

POPULATION.—The first matter to be dealt with is to form some estimate of the number of persons assumed to have been living in the district at the middle of the year, which number may be taken as representing the mean population for the year, and which may form the basis for the calculation of Births and Death “rate.”

This mean population may be estimated from the following data:—

(1) Natural Increase.

Since the census of 1901, when the population was 4,232, the births calculated to the middle of 1905 have exceeded the deaths by 253; therefore, this number added to 4,232 would give a population of 4,485.

(2) Assumption of the continued uniform rate of increase.

If the population be assumed to have increased at the rate calculated from 1891—1901, the population by the middle of the year 1905 would have become 4,335.

Census population, 1891	...	3,996
Census population, 1901	...	4,232

(3) Calculation based on the ascertained number of inhabited houses at the middle of the year. From the census returns the average number of persons per house was 5.18. If this average number of persons per house has remained unaltered, the population for the middle of the year 1905 will be 4,444.

(4) From the birth-rate, which remains fairly constant for any district.

The number of births in Billinge for the year 1905 was 141, this number multiplied by 1,000 and divided by 31.94, which is the average birth-rate for Billinge for the last ten years, gives a population of 4,414.

In view of these considerations and adding 60 for residents at Greenfield School, I am of opinion that the number 4,500 may be reasonably taken as the population of Billinge at the middle of the year 1905.

The area of Billinge is 4,591 acres, and the density of the population is .98 per acre. The total number of deaths occurring in the district in 1905 was 59; 33 were those of males, and 26 of females. This is equal to an annual death-rate of 13.11 per 1,000 living. The death-rate for the whole of England and Wales for the year 1904 was 16.27. Of the 59 deaths, 16 occurred in infants under one year of age, 8 in children one year and under five years, 22 in persons over the sixty years age-period, and the remaining deaths, which total 13, at the intervening age-periods. The deaths of infants under one year of age numbered 16, equal to an infantile death-rate of 113 per 1,000 registered births, as against 206 for the previous year, and 171 the mean rate for the ten years, 1895—1904.

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For England and Wales the corresponding proportions were 146 for the year 1904, and 155 the average for the ten preceding years.

During the year 1905, 141 births were registered in the district, equal to a birth-rate of 31.33 per 1,000 of the population. The birth-rate of the whole of England and Wales for the year 1904 was 27.9. Of the total number of births 8 were illegitimate, corresponding to a proportion of 5.6 per cent., against 4.1 per cent. for England and Wales.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—During the year there were notified in compliance with the Infectious Diseases Notification Act 8 cases, as against 12 cases for the previous year. Of the 8 cases Billinge-Chapel-End contributed 2, Billinge Higher-End 4, and Winstanley 2.

The subjoined table shows the frequency of these diseases in the three districts.

	Billinge Chapel End	Billinge Higher End	Winstanley
Enteric Fever	2	1	1
Erysipelas	0	2	1
Scarlet Fever	0	1	0

ENTERIC FEVER.—Of this disease 4 cases were notified, as against one for the previous year. The whole of the cases were of a very mild type, occurred in old property, and were associated with insanitary surroundings.

ERYSIPELAS.—Three cases have received notification. The whole of the cases were widely separated as to time and distance. One of the cases was undoubtedly imported, as the rash was present within a few hours of residing in the district.

SCARLET FEVER.—This disease has almost disappeared from the district, only one case has been notified, as against a similar number for the previous year, and 36 cases for 1903.

WHOOPING COUGH.—Three deaths have been registered from this disease, as compared with four deaths for the previous year. The deaths, as usual, were confined to infants, and in one case the mother had allowed her child to become infected from visiting an infected house outside the district. This disease I am sorry to say is regarded too lightly by parents, and unless more care is taken with regard to exposure and subsequent treatment, this disease will always be responsible for a high death-rate among infants.

BRONCHITIS AND PNEUMONIA.—During the year 1905, 13 deaths were registered as due to these diseases, equal to a death-rate of 2.88 per 1,000 of population. More than half these deaths were confined to the 1—5 years age-period, and in almost every case there was a history that the child had recently survived an acute attack and suffered a relapse during convalescence. Since these deaths were registered during those months when climatic conditions are unfavourable to respiratory affections, it is very probable that the relapse in most of these cases resulted from a too early exposure to atmospheric changes when the lung had not recovered from the primary attack. Mothers might avert many respiratory relapses if they would remember that extra clothing will not compensate for an unsuitable temperature.

TUBERCULOUS PHTHISIS.—The death-rate from this disease has shown for several years a marked improvement. Last year one death was registered, against three deaths for the previous year, and four deaths for 1903.

DEATHS UNCERTIFIED BY REGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS.—During the year two deaths were registered as “not certified,” corresponding to a proportion of 3.4 per cent.

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These were sudden deaths from natural causes, and although no formal certificates could be granted, evidence was adduced to enable the Coroner to dispense with the holding of an inquest. Three inquests have been held in the undermentioned cases:—

Colliery Accidents	...	...	...	2
Found Drowned	...	...	...	1

**OLD PROPERTY.**—The property at Roby Well, which has been a source of annoyance for some years, is now in a very sanitary condition. Most of the houses in Weaver's Court are now empty, as the occupiers of insanitary property are beginning to learn the importance of better housing. The spouting connected with this class of property is again causing trouble: many houses being damp in consequence of the spouting being either absent or improperly applied.

**DRAINS, SEWERS, AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.**—The sewers have been periodically flushed and the manholes cleaned out. In a few cases the sewer has been blocked and remedied. Several new connections have been made and inspected, and in cases where it has been found impossible to connect drains with the sewer, suitable cesspools have been constructed with overflows. At Carnill Road the sewer gas has been complained of. This nuisance has been abated by more frequent flushing and improved ventilation of the sewer and drains connected with it.

The Sewage Farms have been visited, and apart from the effluent at the Orrell Sewage Farm, no complaint has arisen. At this place the effluent was found polluting Smithy Brook, and also damaging a ditch along its route. Additional filter beds have been constructed, the ditch piped off for a distance of fifty yards, and duplicate settling tanks which are now receiving the Council's attention will, I think, prevent any further danger of pollution.

**CLEANSING AND SCAVENGING.**—This work has been satisfactorily carried out by the Council's workmen. Owing to complaints arising from the very wet condition of ashpits, these have in many cases been covered in and occupiers of houses advised to deposit their domestic waste water into the gully. The paving of yard spaces about old property is much neglected, and unless owners give more attention in the future to this sanitary requirement I would advise the Sanitary Inspector to report on cases requiring abatement.

Twenty-eight notices have been served to abate the following nuisances:—

Defective Drainage,  
Defective Privies and Ashpits.  
Defective Spouting, and  
Keeping of Animals.

Many nuisances have received attention from interviews with owners.

**DISINFECTION.**—This is carried out by means of gaseous, liquid, and solid chemicals. Brownlow Cottage has not been used during the year, and unless any outbreak of Smallpox in the district is very limited our present accommodation would be not only inefficient, but also defective. No disinfecting apparatus is in use; the Council, however, have shown their willingness to compensate for destroyed infected clothing.

**DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS.**—These have been periodically inspected and found satisfactory. The regulations made under this Order are in force, and have been carried out. In no case has infectious disease occurred on these premises, nor has any case been traced to their influence. At places where structural alterations have been made in connection with these buildings, the Council's approval has been granted.



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SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.—These buildings have been periodically inspected, and found kept in a sanitary condition. In only one slaughter-house is the killing of animals regularly carried out; much of the meat that is consumed in the district being killed outside. The middenstead and yard space connected with one of these buildings has given rise to complaint. The nuisance has been remedied by the construction of a suitable cesspool and better drainage.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.—These have been visited, and found satisfactory. In no case has infectious disease been reported on these premises. All the bake-houses are above ground, periodically limewashed, and supplied with Council's water.

No list of outworkers from other authorities has been received, and the chief industry carried on in the district is the making and altering of wearing apparel, which is chiefly carried out in "Domestic Workshops."

WATER SUPPLY.—This is of good quality, and the supply during the year has been constant. The water from a disused shaft at Cobmoor has been analysed, and when its analysis was found suitable for domestic use the shaft was then cleaned out and a pump fixed to augment the existing supply. Serious consequences might have followed the contamination of the catch water drains at Cobmoor Watershed had not the Council taken prompt measures to abate all possible source of pollution. All newly erected buildings are supplied by the Council's water, and a few connections have been made to property hitherto supplied by unreliable sources.

Death-rate	...	...	...	13.11
Birth-rate	...	...	...	31.33
Zymotic Death-rate	...	...	...	.88

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

RICHARD OSWALD MATHER,

Medical Officer of Health.

February 2nd, 1906.

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TABLE I.  
VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1905 AND  
PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond District.	NETT DEATH AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
		Number.	Rate.	Under 1 year of age.		At all ages			Number.	Rate
				Number	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.			
1895	4000	165	41.25	30	181	83	20.75	0	83	20.75
1896	4250	132	31.00	13	98	47	11.00	0	47	11.00
1897	4250	149	35.00	34	228	101	23.76	0	101	23.76
1898	4200	133	31.66	19	142	79	18.81	0	79	18.81
1899	4250	125	29.41	17	136	64	15.05	1	65	15.29
1900	4250	128	30.11	28	218	73	17.17	2	75	17.64
1901	4250	135	31.76	28	207	70	16.47	2	72	16.94
1902	4250	120	28.23	20	166	76	18.11	2	78	18.35
1903	4300	148	34.41	19	128	77	17.90	0	77	17.90
1904	4350	116	26.66	24	206	67	15.40	3	70	16.09
Averages for years 1895—1904	4235	135.1	31.94	23.2	171	73.7	17.44	1	74.7	17.65
1905	4500	141	31.33	16	113	58	12.88	1	59	13.11

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 4,591.

Total population at all ages, 4,232 at census of 1901.

Number of inhabited houses 817

Average number of persons per house, 5.18 „

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District: None.

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District: Wigan Workhouse.

Is the Union Workhouse within the District? No.

TABLE II.  
VITAL STATISTICS OF SEPARATE LOCALITIES IN 1905 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	BILLINGE-CHAPEL-END				BILLINGE-HIGHER-END.				WINSTANLEY.			
YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1895	2010	81	37	10	1680	72	40	16	560	12	6	4
1896	2010	72	14	4	1680	51	31	9	560	9	2	0
1897	2010	65	36	13	1680	72	37	20	560	12	8	1
1898	1970	70	41	8	1670	51	24	9	560	12	14	2
1899	1990	68	34	10	1700	45	18	5	560	12	13	2
1900	1990	69	36	15	1700	45	33	13	560	14	6	0
1901	2068	69	33	15	1600	58	29	13	564	8	8	0
1902	2072	61	41	10	1618	52	27	8	560	7	10	3
1903	2090	76	32	7	1650	61	32	12	560	11	13	0
1904	2100	58	31	10	1700	48	33	11	550	10	6	3
Averages of Years 1895 to 1904.	2031	68.9	33.5	10.2	1667	55.5	30.4	11.6	559.4	10.7	8.6	1.5
1905	2140	67	29	8	1800	62	25	6	560	12	5	2

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TABLE 3.—CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1905.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT							TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.			NO. OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL FROM EACH LOCALITY.		
	At Ages—Years.							Billinge- Chapel- End.	Billinge- Higher- End.	Winstanley.	Billinge- Chapel- End.	Billinge- Higher- End.	Winstanley.
	At all Ages.	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.						
Erysipelas ... ..	3	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever ... ..	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Enteric Fever ... ..	4	0	2	2	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0
Totals ... ..	8	0	3	4	1	0	0	2	4	2	0	0	0

TABLE 4.—CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1905.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							DEATHS IN LOCALITIES AT ALL AGES.		
	All ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Billinge- Chapel- End.	Billinge- Higher- End.	Win- stanley.
Whooping Cough ... ..	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	1	0
Diarrhœa ... ..	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Enteritis ... ..	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0
Phthisis (P'l'm'nary Tuberculosis)	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Other Tubercular Diseases ...	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Cancer, Malignant Disease ...	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0
Bronchitis ... ..	12	4	3	0	0	1	4	8	3	1
Pneumonia ... ..	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Premature Birth ... ..	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Heart Diseases ... ..	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0
Accidents ... ..	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0
All other causes ... ..	27	4	1	0	2	9	11	11	14	2
All causes... ..	59	16	8	0	3	14	18	29	25	5

TABLE V.

## INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1905.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week.	Total under 1 month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	5-6 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
<b>All Causes—</b>											
Certified ... ..	4	4	2	2	2	1	1	2	1	1	16
Uncertified .. ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Common Infectious Diseases—</b>											
Small-pox ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chicken-pox ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria : Croup ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough ... ..	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Diarrhœal Diseases—</b>											
Diarrhœa, all forms ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enteritis (not Tuberculous) ..	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	3
Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Wasting Diseases—</b>											
Premature Birth ... ..	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Congenital Defects ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Injury at Birth ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Want of Breast-milk ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus ...	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	3
<b>Tuberculous Diseases—</b>											
Tuberculous Meningitis ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tuberculous Peritonitis : Tabes Mesenterica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Syphilis ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rickets ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)...	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Convulsions ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bronchitis ... ..	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	4
Laryngitis ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Suffocation, overlaying ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Causes ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	4	4	2	2	2	1	1	2	1	1	16

Births in the Year { Legitimate 133  
 { Illegitimate 8

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages 59

Population estimated to middle of 1905 ... 4,500



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ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1905, FOR THE  
URBAN DISTRICT OF BILLINGE,

ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901, IN CONNECTION WITH  
FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, LAUNDRIES, WORKPLACES, AND HOMEWORK.

## 1.—INSPECTION.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (Including Factory Laundries) ...	3	None	None
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)..	18	—	—
Total ... ..	21	—	—

## 2.—DEFECTS FOUND.—None.

## 3.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number
Matters notified to H.M. Inspectors of Factories:—	Nil
Underground Bakehouses (S. 101):—	Nil
Workshops on the Register (S.131) at the end of the year.	
Dressmakers ... ..	10
Bootmaker ... ..	1
Clog Makers ... ..	2
Bakehouses ... ..	4
Tailors ... ..	1
Total number of workshops on Register ... ..	18